

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

DANIELLA KATALIN MELEGH,

Plaintiff,

v.

PROVIDENCE HEALTH &
SERVICES, SWEDISH MEDICAL
CENTER, and LAURA,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:23-cv-01704-JNW

ORDER

Plaintiff Danielle Katalin Melegh proceeds pro se and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights lawsuit against Providence Health & Services, Swedish Medical Center, and “Laura,” Swedish Orthopedic Clinic’s manager, for alleged disability discrimination. Dkt. No. 4.

1. DISCUSSION

On November 8, 2023, Melegh requested that the Court appoint counsel to represent her. Dkt. No. 6. Melegh has contacted more than ten attorneys for assistance with this matter. *Id.* at 2. She has also contacted the DOJ for assistance. *Id.*

1 Although there is “no constitutional right to counsel in a civil case,” *Adir Int’l,*
2 *LLC v. Starr Indem. & Liab. Co.*, 994 F.3d 1032, 1038-39 (9th Cir. 2021) (internal
3 citation omitted), *cert. denied*, 142 S. Ct. 861, (2022), a “court may request an
4 attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel.” 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(1).

5 The Western District of Washington has implemented a plan for court-
6 appointed representation of civil rights litigants. *See* General Order No. 07-23 (Sept.
7 8, 2023). Before forwarding a case to the Pro Bono Screening Committee, the Court
8 must review whether the plaintiff is financially eligible and assess the case to
9 determine that it is not frivolous.

10 First, Melegh is financially eligible for referral to the Screening Committee,
11 as she has been granted *in forma pauperis status*. Dkt. No. 4. *See also Ivey v. Bd. of*
12 *Regents*, 673 F.2d 266, 269 (9th Cir. 1982) (“Plaintiff in this case clearly satisfied
13 the financial requisites to appointment of counsel, for the district court permitted
14 him to proceed in forma pauperis, which requires a greater showing of indigency
15 than is required for appointment of counsel.”).

16 Second, Melegh’s claims are not frivolous. She has alleged disability
17 discrimination in a healthcare setting.

18 The Court finds that Melegh’s case is not frivolous and that she is financially
19 eligible for referral to the Screening Committee. For these reasons, the Court will
20 refer Melegh’s case to the Pro Bono Screening Committee.

21 2. CONCLUSION

22 The Court orders as follows:

- Dated this 3rd day of April, 2024.

Jamal N. Whitehead
United States District Judge